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House of Representatives

The House met at 9 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. CHOCOLA).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,

July 15, 2003.

I hereby appoint the Honorable CHRIS CHOCOLA to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

J. DENNIS HASTERT,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Mr. Monahan, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed bills of the following titles in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. 1233. An act to authorize assistance for the National Great Blacks in Wax Museum and Justice Learning Center

S. 1280. An act to amend the PROTECT Act to clarify certain volunteer liability.

MORNING HOUR DEBATES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 7, 2003, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning hour debates. The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with each party limited to not to exceed 25 minutes, and each Member, except the majority leader, the minority leader, or the minority whip, limited to not to exceed 5 minutes, but in no event shall debate extend beyond 9:50 a.m.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. There being no requests for morning hour de-

bates, pursuant to clause 12(a), rule I, the House will stand in recess until 10 a.m.

Accordingly (at 9 o'clock and 4 minutes a.m.) the House stood in recess until 10 a.m.

□ 1000

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. SHAW) at 10 a.m.

PRAYER

Dr. Barry C. Black, Chaplain, United States Senate, offered the following prayer:

God of grace and glory, You bless us in so many ways. You hold our lives in Your hands and oversee the movements of the seasons. You give us Your peace in the midst of life's storms. You read even our unworthy thoughts, and yet You invite us to meet with You.

Lord, thank You for leading us in life's precarious places, providing us with inspiring promises. Help us to live worthy of Your generous providence. May we remember to cast our burdens on You, for You have promised to sustain us. We pray this in Your strong name, Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from New York (Mr. McNULTY) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. McNULTY led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

BULLETPROOF VEST PARTNERSHIP GRANT

(Mr. BURNS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend.)

Mr. BURNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of our Nation's police officers. They champion homeland security every day, and quite often they stand in the line of fire.

Between 1992 and 2001, 594 police officers were shot in the line of duty. Of those officers, half were not wearing body armor. Their agency could not afford it. They were not wearing the bulletproof vest that could have saved their lives.

Thanks to the Bulletproof Vest Partnership Grant program, 700,000 more officers are wearing life-saving body armor today than just 4 years ago. This initiative provides police officers an additional degree of safety in their job that they deserve. I ask my colleagues to cosponsor H.R. 1708 to help us continue this vital program and keep our police officers protected as they protect us.

CELEBRATING THE 48TH ANNUAL BEAUFORT COUNTY WATER FESTIVAL

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, as one of the greatest honors of representing the Second District of South Carolina, I will soon be in Beaufort, the Palmetto State's second oldest city and the home of Second Congressional District Communications

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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Director Wesley Denton attending the 48th annual Beaufort County Water Festival. I will join Geordie Madlinger, this year's Commodore, in this historic celebration of South Carolina's Lowcountry, which takes place in Beaufort's Waterfront Park.

Southern hospitality, Lowcountry culture, and family traditions are all on full display at each year's festivities. The Water Festival brings together young and old from all over the Lowcountry to enjoy dances and concerts, fine arts and crafts, an antique show, boat races, sporting events of all kinds, historic home and museum tours, the Blessing of the Fleet, a grand parade and a Lowcountry Supper with fresh local seafood.

Each summer I enjoy spending time at the lemonade social at the home of South Carolina State Representative Catherine Ceips and this year attending the Change of Command Ceremony hosted by Brantley and Helen Harvey. Also, I would like to commend Beaufort Mayor Bill Rauch, Greater Beaufort Chamber of Commerce's Executive Director Libby Barnes, and Beaufort County Council's Vice Chairman Skeet Von Harton for their hard work in making this year's festival a success.

I ask all of my colleagues to join me in wishing the residents of Beaufort County a wonderful 48th Annual Water Festival.

In conclusion, God bless our troops.

YELLOWSTONE AMENDMENT TO INTERIOR APPROPRIATIONS

(Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, this week we will be voting on a spending bill for the Department of the Interior, the agency entrusted with the management and stewardship of our national parks. Unfortunately, this agency seems to have forgotten the stewardship portion of their mission.

The Department has decided to ignore 10 years of scientific study by the National Park Service, which concluded that the best way to protect and preserve Yellowstone and Grand Teton National Parks, two of our greatest national treasures, would be to phase out the use of snowmobiles. They have decided to ignore the conclusion that emissions produced by snowmobiles force park rangers to wear respirators, adversely affect the health of visitors, and obscure visibility around the famous Old Faithful geyser.

This decision is an affront to the health of our national park system. That is why I strongly support an amendment to the Interior appropriations bill that will call for a phaseout of the use of snowmobiles in these parks.

Our national parks are irreplaceable. We need to act now so that we can ensure that they are protected for generations to come.

IRAQ AND WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION

(Mr. KUCINICH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, today at 11 a.m. in Rayburn 2203 I will be hosting a briefing featuring two veteran intelligence officers to discuss the Bush administration's misuse of intelligence to justify the war in Iraq. The first speaker, Ray McGovern, is a 27-year veteran of the analytic ranks of the CIA who cofounded the Veteran Intelligence Professionals for Sanity. The second speaker, Andrew Wilkie, was a senior intelligence analyst at Australia's Office of National Assessment until his resignation a week before the war.

The Bush Administration's recent blame shifting and back-pedaling on the Iraq uranium claim is profoundly embarrassing to this Nation. In an effort to protect the Bush presidency, Secretary Rumsfeld and National Security Advisor Rice have decided to blame CIA Director Tenet for not removing the "16 words" from the President's State of the Union address.

They, of course, have completely neglected to mention that the claim was disputed by Tenet in October, 2002, and that the Vice President's office learned of the forged evidence back in February of 2002. They have refused to divulge what transpired during Vice President CHENEY's multiple unusual visits to meet personally with CIA Iraq analysts, in which they reportedly felt pressured.

It is time for the American people to know the truth, and today at 11 a.m. in Rayburn 2203 we are going to continue on the path to get the truth.

THE TRUTH STILL MATTERS

(Mr. PENCE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, even here in Washington, D.C., the truth still matters. And despite what my colleague from Ohio just suggested, the truth is that Iraq had a program of weapons of mass destruction in the months and years prior to operation Iraqi Freedom. Saddam Hussein himself admitted in 1991 to the possession of 10,000 nerve gas warheads, 1,500 chemical weapons, and 412 tons of chemical weapons agents. The truth is President Clinton attacked Saddam Hussein in 1998 to confront his biological, chemical and nuclear weapons programs. The truth is that Great Britain's intelligence community confirmed Iraq's efforts to obtain enriched uranium in Africa. The truth is it was that intelligence report that the President spoke of on this floor, and the truth is that Iraq had a weapons of mass destruction program and that Operation Iraqi Freedom was our finest

and noblest and most necessary hour in these recent times.

RESOLUTION DISMISSING ELECTION CONTEST AGAINST ED CASE OF HAWAII

Mr. NEY, from the Committee on House Administration, submitted a privileged report (H. Rept. 108-207) on the resolution (H. Res. 317) dismissing the election contest against Ed Case, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent for the immediate consideration of the resolution (H. Res. 317) dismissing the election contest relating to the office of Representative from the Second Congressional District of Hawaii.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will report the resolution.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. RES. 317

Resolved, That the election contest relating to the office of Representative from the Second Congressional District of Hawaii is dismissed.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Ohio?

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, reserving my right to object, I yield to the distinguished chairman to explain the purpose of this resolution.

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman from Connecticut, our ranking member, for yielding.

I rise in support of House Resolution 317, a bill to dismiss an election contest filed against Representative ED CASE of Hawaii's Second Congressional District. There is bipartisan and complete agreement that the contest fails to state grounds sufficient to change the result of the election and therefore should be dismissed.

The contestant challenged the late Representative Patsy Mink in the 2002 Democrat primary, where he received 15 percent of the vote. The contestant argues that Representative Mink, who was seriously ill at the time of the primary and passed away 1 week later, should have been disqualified as a primary candidate, that he should have been declared the Democrat nominee by default and that as the nominee he therefore would have been the inevitable general election winner.

The Federal Contested Elections Act does not contemplate considering Notices of Contest that are based on the conduct of primary elections. Consequently, the committee concludes that the basis for the contestant's Notice of Contest falls outside the scope of the FCEA, and it was totally agreed to without any dissension.

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, further reserving my right to object, I rise in support of the resolution reported unanimously by the Committee on House Administration to dismiss this frivolous election contest